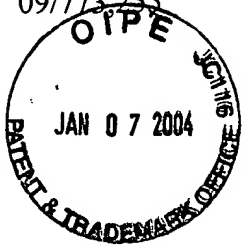


REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 are canceled and new Claims 9-17 are added by the current amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dent (US 5,894,473). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 have been canceled. The Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's arguments and reserve the right to prosecute these claims in continuation applications.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 3, 4, and 8 would be allowable if made independent of the rejected base claims. Consequently, Claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form, and Claim 4 has been amended to depend on now independent Claim 3. New Claims 9-11 and 12 depend on amended Claims 3 and 8, respectively, and are not anticipated by Dent for at least the same reasons as Claims 3 and 8. New system claims 13-17 include at least the same limitations as amended claim 8 and are not anticipated by Dent for at least the same reasons as claim 8. All Claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.




CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/5/04

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